

This guide has been prepared to assist those tasked with examining travel and employment authorization documents. This guide contains color photographs of the most commonly used documents but it is not comprehensive. There are earlier valid revisions of some illustrated documents and other less common documents that are not illustrated here.

Because the attachments are reproductions, the exact size and color may deviate from the original. Do not make identifications based on size and/or color alone.

For any questions regarding the authenticity of the documents shown in this guide, please contact the nearest office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING ALIEN STATUS

In accordance with the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, any person born in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is a citizen of the U.S. at birth. U.S. citizenship may also be acquired through **DERIVATION** from a U.S. citizen parent when children are born abroad or through **NATURALIZATION** after meeting the necessary residency requirements. All persons not citizens or nationals of the U.S. are aliens, which generally are classified as **PERMANENT RESIDENTS** ("Immigrants"), **NON-IMMIGRANTS**, or **UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS**.

PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS enjoy almost all of the same rights as U.S. citizens. This status may be obtained through a number of different procedures and, unless taken away administratively, is granted for life. Aliens with permanent residency must carry evidence of their status.

NON-IMMIGRANT ALIENS are admitted to the U.S. for a temporary period of time and for a specific purpose, most often as a tourist. There are different categories of non-immigrants, and they are identified through letter/number symbols (e.g. B-2). Non-immigrants are also required to present evidence of their lawful status in the U.S. to officers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This will usually consist of a passport containing a visa and an Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94 or CBP I-94A).

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS are those who may have crossed the border illegally and/or been smuggled into the interior of the U.S., or those who have violated their non-immigrant status by accepting unauthorized employment, remaining longer than permitted, or committing some other violation. Some of these aliens purchase counterfeit documents or assume another person's identity by using fraudulently obtained genuine documents.

Although there have been many different revisions of the **CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION**, there are two main versions issued by the INS. The more recent bears a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. Earlier versions had gray or beige background designs and did not contain the embossed seal. Regardless, all certificates of naturalization were printed on watermarked paper. The watermark design of the Department of Justice seal and the letters "USA" becomes visible when this version of the document is held up to a strong light.



(Watermark)

The current revision of the **CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION** is similar to the previous version. It too contains a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. However, the watermark design has been changed to the emblem of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) now issues these certificates.

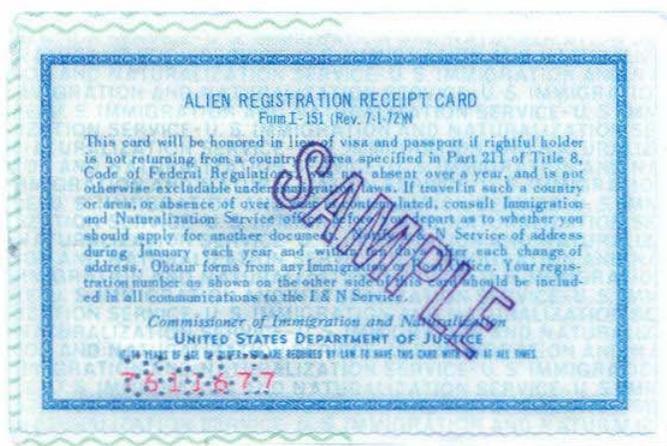


(Watermark)

ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARDS

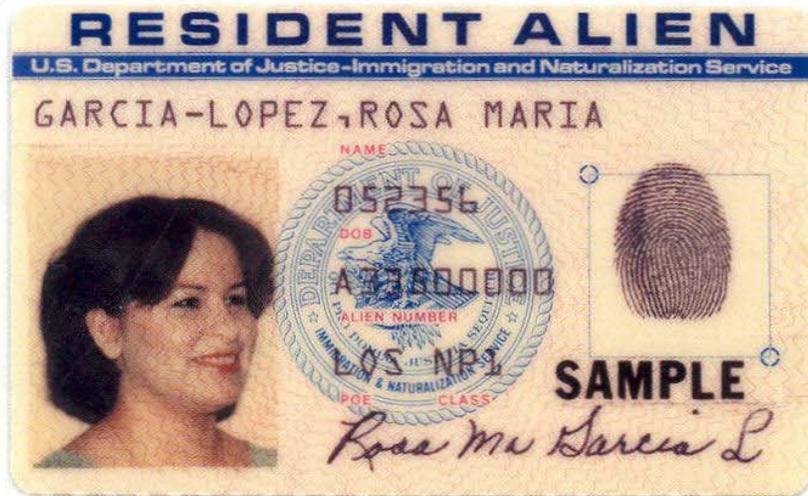
Forms I-151 and I-551 are issued to aliens who have been granted permanent resident status in the United States. They retain this status while in this country. The bearer is required to have this card in his/her possession at all times.

The first **ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARD**, Form I-151, was introduced in 1946. Through 18 years of various revisions, it remained primarily green in color, causing it to become known as a "Green Card". This term is still used commonly, although the cards have not been "Green" since 1959. The I-151 cards contained no expiration date and were only required to be renewed if the recipient was under the age of 14 at the time of issuance, or if the card was lost or stolen.



NOTE: As of March 20, 1996, the Form I-151 is no longer acceptable as evidence of permanent residence.

The **RESIDENT ALIEN CARD**, Form I-551, was introduced in January 1977 and phased in over a period of time. In addition to the photograph, the I-551 contains the bearer's signature and fingerprint. As with the older I-151 cards, this version I-551 generally does not contain an expiration date.



Form I-551

This **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT**, Form I-688B, was introduced in November 1989 and is issued to aliens who have been granted permission to be employed in the U.S. for a specific period of time. The card was produced originally with a Polaroid process and has interlocking gold lines across the front.

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Immigration and Naturalization Service

Name
A000000000 WOTTON, SARA J.

Signature
Sara J. Wotton

Valid from Expires DOB
11/09/90 02/08/91 09/23/69

Provision of Law
H 274A.12(A)(06)

Terms & Conditions:
T
M NONE

A ISSUED: 11/09/90

FORM I-688B JAN 89

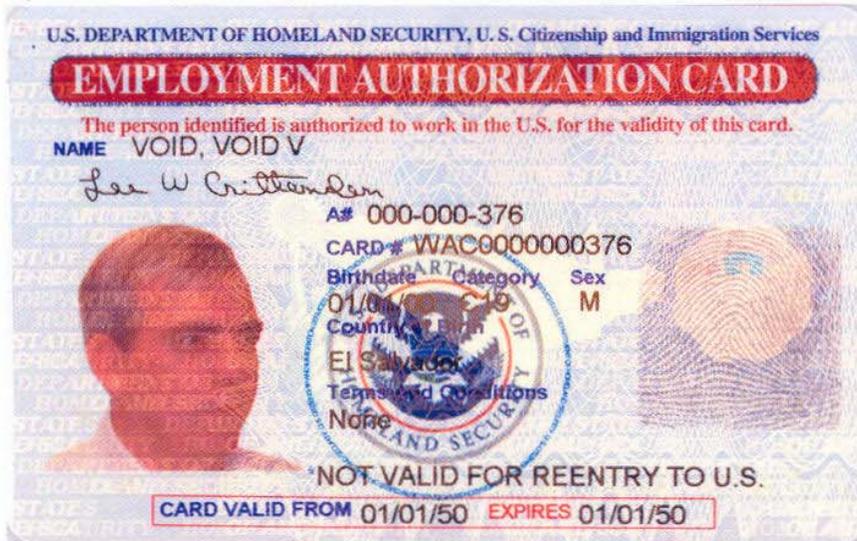
FORM I-688B 11/89

The person identified on the reverse of this card is authorized to engage in employment in the United States pursuant to Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, during the period of validity of the card and in accordance with the restricting terms stated on the reverse of the card.

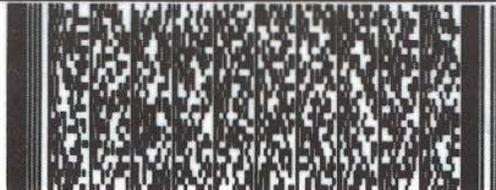
This document is **VOID** if altered and may be revoked pursuant to 8 CFR 274a. This document is not evidence of citizenship or permanent residence in the United States. If this card is found, please return to the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Form I-688B

An updated **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD**, Form I-766, was introduced in May 2004. The new card is similar in appearance to the previous revision, with some modifications to the card design. The front of the document continues to show the photograph, fingerprint and signature of the bearer beneath a holographic film, but now displays the DHS seal. The reverse has a standard bar code, magnetic strip, and a two-dimensional bar code containing encoded data.



6765698



This card is not evidence of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.
This document is void if altered, and may be revoked by the
U. S. Government FORM I-766 Rev. (05-2004)

Form I-766 (May 2004)

When an alien has been granted admission into the U.S. by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Inspector at an authorized Port of Entry, he/she will be issued an **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE RECORD**, Form I-94, the bottom portion of which is stapled to a page in the alien's passport. This document explains how long the bearer may remain in the U.S. and the terms of admission.

Departure Number
742831632 01

Immigration and Naturalization Service
 I-94
 Departure Record

U.S. IMMIGRATION WAS ADMITTED: 2003
 NOV 21 2002
 CLASS UNTIL B-2
 May 20, 2003

14. Family Name DOE	
15. First (Given) Name JOHN	16. Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr) 01/01/91
17. Country of Citizenship ENGLAND	

See Other Side STAPLE HERE

Warning - A nonimmigrant who accepts unauthorized employment is subject to deportation.
Important - Retain this permit in your possession; *you must surrender it when you leave the U.S.* Failure to do so may delay your entry into the U.S. in the future.
 You are authorized to stay in the U.S. only until the date written on this form. To remain past this date, without permission from immigration authorities, is a violation of the law.

Surrender this permit when you leave the U.S.:

- By sea or air, to the transportation line;
- Across the Canadian border, to a Canadian Official;
- Across the Mexican border, to a U.S. Official.

Students planning to reenter the U.S. within 30 days to return to the same school, see "Arrival-Departure" on page 2 of Form I-20 prior to **surrendering this permit.**

Record of Changes

Port: Departure Record

Date:

Carrier:

Flight #/Ship Name:

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
 Washington, D.C. 20402

Many ports of entry along the land borders with Canada and Mexico began using a modified **Form CBP I-94A** in late 2004. The new form is computer generated, with both the bearer's personal information and the terms of admission printed onto the form instead of written by hand.

Departure Number 813106636 11	
	
Department of Homeland Security CBP I-94 A (11/04) Departure Record	
09/17/2007	
Family Name SAMPLE	
First (Given) Name AHMET	Birth Date (Day Mo Yr) 22 12 50
Country of Citizenship PAKISTAN	
20041122 US-VISIT 20041122 MULTIPLE	
See Other Side	STAPLE HERE

Warning A nonimmigration who accepts unauthorized employment is subject to deportation.

Important Retain this permit in your possession; *you must surrender it when you leave the U.S.* Failure to do so may delay your entry into the U.S. in the future. You are authorized to stay in the U.S. only until the date written on this form. To remain past this date, without permission from Department of Homeland Security authorities, is a violation of the law.

Surrender this permit when you leave the U.S.:

- By sea or air, to the transportation line;
- Across the Canadian border, to a Canadian Official;
- Across the Mexican border, to a U.S. Official.

Students planning to reenter the U.S. within 30 days to return to the same school, see "Arrival-Departure" on page 2 of Form I-20 **prior to surrendering this permit.**

Record of Changes

Port: **Departure Record**

Date:

Carrier:

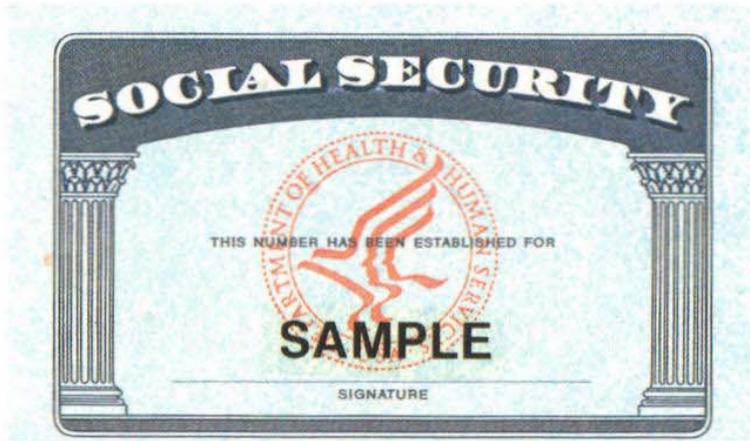
Flight # / Ship Name:

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Although **SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS** are not immigration documents, they are mentioned here because they are often used as identification and to establish employment authorization.

Social Security cards have been issued since 1936 and have been revised more than 20 times. Originally, the seal on the social security card read Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In May 1980, it was changed to the Department of Health and Human Services. In April 1995 it was changed again to read Social Security Administration. Some counterfeiters have failed to notice these changes.

In October 1983, security features were added to the card. All social security cards issued since October 1983 have been printed with raised (intaglio) printing and the signature line consists of microline printing of the words "**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**" in a repeating pattern.



Do not laminate this card.

This card is invalid if not signed by the number holder unless health or age prevents signature.

Improper use of this card and/or number by the number holder or any other person is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

This card is the property of the Social Security Administration and must be returned upon request. If found, return to:

SSA-ATTN: FOUND SSN CARD
P.O. Box 17087 Baltimore Md. 21203

Contact your local Social Security office for any other matter regarding this card.

Department of Health and Human Services
Social Security Administration
Form OA-702 (1-88)

C25000035

To order additional copies of Form M-396 “A Guide to Selected U.S. Travel and Identity Documents”, please contact the CBP National Distribution Center at:

Customs and Border Protection
National Distribution Center
P.O. Box 68912
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Fax (317) 290-3046

For government requests, please use Form CF-3039. All other requests should use Form CF-262. These forms can be obtained from the “Resources” section of the ICE website www.ice.gov.